

Florida school shooting: 1 killed in simultaneous wrecks  
Death toll reaches 17 | 3A that close State Route 347 | 2A



CASA GRANDE

Dispatch

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

SERVING PINAL COUNTY FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

NO. 39

VOL. 107

PinalCentral.com

75 CENTS

ABORTION

Bill would require asking why

By HOWARD FISCHER  
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — Women who want an abortion would have to tell state health officials exactly why under the terms of legislation approved Wednesday by a Senate panel.

On a party-line vote, members of the Health and Human Services Committee approved adding a series of new requirements on abortion providers and those who already are required to inform women about the nature of the procedure. These include not only numbers of women served but also data on the specialty of the physician performing the procedure, the type of facility where the abortion was performed and whether anesthesia was administered to the mother or fetus.

Doctors also would be required to detail how many of their patients have asked to hear the fetus' heartbeat, something they already have to offer to allow under current law.

— Abortion bill, Page 11A

When selling cookies, older Girl Scouts can face ageism

By MELISSA ST. AUDE  
Staff Writer

CASA GRANDE — Daisy Mendoza, 16, approaches selling Girl Scout cookies with the mind of a savvy businesswoman.

She strategizes the best times and locations for cookie booths, manages supply and demand and knows how to set up an eye-catching display. Several days a week, she dons her green Girl Scout vest and lets her social media followers know when and where she'll be available to greet them with boxes of the sweet treats.

"I'm a social person so I love being out there and meeting people," Daisy said. "Lots of people tell me stories about when they were kids and they sold Girl Scout cookies. I love hearing their stories."

But as a teenager selling Girl Scout cookies, Daisy said she often faces age discrimination. Many customers only want to purchase the seasonal cookies from younger scouts.

"I've had people tell me that we should leave cookie sales to the younger girls. People sometimes pull over just to ask me where they can find the little girls at,"

— Girl Scouts, Page 11A

Habitat for Humanity home is first in AC

New residence expected to be finished in June

By CAELA FOX  
Staff Writer

ARIZONA CITY

The first Habitat for Humanity home in Arizona City is under construction at Mission Drive and Monaco Boulevard.

Most Habitat for Humanity homes take about 15 weeks to build. They are mostly built by volunteers, and the home is then donated to a family in need of housing.

This home is being built for Christopher Sharp and his son Matthew.

The Sharps live in an apartment that is infested with roaches, bed bugs, mosquitoes and mites. Along with that, law enforcement has been called out to the apartment complex for drug-related calls. These conditions and safety concerns are what led Chris Sharp to apply for a home with Habitat.

**WHAT WAS OLD IS NEW** Casa Grande's housing-rehabilitation program completes its second home this year. | **County & State, 6A**



Caela Fox/PinalCentral photos

Future homeowner Christopher Sharp, with his son Matthew by his side, says a few words during the Habitat for Humanity wall-signing ceremony and blessing Feb. 3 in Arizona City. Below, volunteers put up the outer walls for the new home at Mission Drive and Monaco Boulevard.

— Habitat, Page 11A



Theft charges filed in on-going Coolidge honor park dispute



Joey Chenoweth/PinalCentral

Veterans gathered in front of the Military Honor Park on Jan. 18 before attending a meeting on whether the park will have to pay rent in the future.

By ROFIDA KHAIRALLA  
Staff Writer

COOLIDGE — Charges have been filed by police related to the ongoing dispute between a veterans memorial and Artisan Village of Coolidge.

Oscar Rodriguez, founder of the Military Honor Park, said that his donation box was stolen. According to a police report filed with the Coolidge Police Department, Rodriguez indicated that the box was taken from the honor park on Jan. 9.

Records show that he did not report the box missing until Jan. 24 after seeking legal counsel regarding the ongoing battle over payments the Coolidge Performing Arts Center Foundation is requiring the park to make.

Rodriguez accused foundation board President Mike Henry of taking the box.

A follow-up interview conducted by the

responding officer with Henry and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lynn Parsons confirmed that Henry did take the box, which at the time reportedly contained \$4.

According to the report, charges of theft were forwarded to Florence-Coolidge Justice Court.

In a sit-down interview with PinalCentral on Jan. 19, members of Artisan Village and the foundation board indicated that Rodriguez had opened a separate bank account and was depositing money from the donation box into that separate account.

"We have a responsibility to account for the funds," City Manager and foundation board member Rick Miller told PinalCentral.

PinalCentral has seen three different sets of checks for Military Honor Park on Bank of the West that have been issued un-

der three different entities.

The first entity is the Coolidge Performing Arts Center Foundation Inc., doing business as the AVC Military Honor Park. The second is Parsons. Both sets of checks feature the same routing number and account number.

The third set of checks, issued in Rodriguez's name, also features the same routing and account number.

Rodriguez explained that tensions between Artisan Village and the honor park actually began on Jan. 5 when he requested that Parsons — who initially oversaw the account — issue a check on behalf of the park to a pest control agency that had just completed maintenance at the park.

It was in that moment that Rodriguez claims he was told that no more checks

— Park dispute, Page 11A

Today's weather

A shower or two

High  
63

Low  
47

State, national forecast, 3A

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